

Supporting Your Learner

Advanced Higher Modern Studies

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Course Outline

In Advanced Higher Modern Studies pupils study three main areas;

- Social Issues – Understanding Criminal Behaviour
- Social Issues – Responses By Society To Crime
- Research Methods

Pupils are also required to complete a 5000 dissertation which is externally assessed by the SQA and accounts for 33% of their overall grade in Advanced Higher Modern Studies. During the course of the year one period per week will be dedicated to dissertation work and support in class.

As the Advanced Higher Modern Studies course is designed to prepare pupils for university it is expected that pupils will dedicate a significant amount of their study periods in school and time at home to carrying out independent research. This will allow classes to adopt a more tutorial based format where pupils discuss and debate the research and reading that they have carried out.

Exam Preparation

As the Advanced Higher Modern Studies exam approaches, pupils should carry out as much timed practise of exam questions as possible, as well as increasing the volume of research they complete. Research methods questions and essay questions both require time management and pupils should be encouraged to practise under timed conditions. The Modern Studies exam is broken up into three sections each worth 30 marks. One hour is allocated to each 30 mark section and pupils should help prepare by practising both 30 mark essays and research methods questions in that time. Pupils will have the opportunity to carry out exam practise in class also.



Useful Websites

Higher Modern Studies candidates should use a wide range of websites to help them prepare and develop throughout the course. However, the most valuable way to enhance their knowledge is to regularly research the relevant issues that are in the news currently. Thus websites such as; [BBC](#), [Guardian](#), [Telegraph](#), [Independent](#) or any other quality newspaper will be of great use. Watching television programmes such as Question Time, Newsnight and Sunday Politics will also greatly help their understanding of key issues in Modern Studies.

Furthermore, websites such as: [Prison Reform Trust](#); [Howard League for Penal Reform](#); [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey](#); and [Scottish Centre for Crime Justice Research](#) are all particularly useful for keeping up to date with the most recent developments and statistics in the Criminal Justice System

Useful Textbooks

Due to the nature of the Advanced Higher Course, the majority of reading should be done through online articles and publications from sources such as the ones mentioned above.

Revision Classes

Currently Modern Studies revision classes are offered by Miss Bulloch on a Wednesday and either Miss Bulloch or Mr Redford on a Tuesday and Thursday. Pupils are also always welcome to seek out either teacher for advice at lunch or at the start or end of the day.



SQA Past Papers

The link below will allow you to access the most recent specimen papers produced by the SQA. There are also Marking Schemes on this page. The 'old' Advanced Higher Past Papers are also useful, especially for practising 30 mark essay questions.

[SQA Advanced Higher Modern Studies](#)

Understanding Standards

As yet, there are no Understanding Standards materials available from the SQA. However, as soon as they become available, they will be uploaded here.

